

**Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals
Knowledge Assessment Subcommittee**

DRAFT “Charge” to Subcommittee

Desired Product

The subcommittee is charged with developing a draft report that summarizes the current state of knowledge about acoustic impacts on marine mammals. The draft report will be presented to the full Committee for review and approval. It should answer the following questions.

- What is agreed upon, with what level of certainty, concerning the impacts of sound on marine mammals?
- What are the major areas of disagreement in the scientific debate?
- What are the major, significant unresolved questions, and which are the most urgent?

The report should not be more than 20 pages in length, and should be written for the non-technical audience of policy-makers.

In developing this draft report, the subcommittee should review and incorporate syntheses developed by other groups, as well as recent primary literature and other relevant sources.

Potential Criteria for Membership on Subcommittee

- Nominee is familiar with relevant research issues.
- Nominee is familiar with or has participated in past synthesis efforts.
- Balance among subcommittee membership among major interest groups: producers of sound, NGOs, regulators, and researchers.

Schedule

The subcommittee will distribute a draft report by July 1, 2004, to allow for its consideration by the full Committee at the July 2004 plenary meeting.

Process

1. Hold a meeting as soon as possible after February Committee meeting, possibly in late February, to outline the report and allocate tasks to subcommittee members.
2. The subcommittee may meet as often as desired and practical, in person and/or by conference call.
3. To the greatest extent possible, the Commission will provide requested support, such as a facilitator, administrative or logistical support for arranging meetings and conference calls, a technical writer, technical experts, etc.